Didn't Disclose Camera Location, Say Networks

All Deny Giving Information to Demonstrators

NEW YORK (AP)—The three major television networks denied Saturday that they had informed demostrators where their cameras would be set up at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago so the demonstrators could stage protests before a national audience.

The charge was made by a Chicage police undercover agent who quoted Youth International Party (yippie) leader Jerry Rubin as saying the networks had given the yippies advance notice. The undercover agent, Robert L. Pierson, infiltrated the yippies and became Rubin's bodyguard.

Spokesmen for the National Broadcasting Co., Columbia Broadcasting System and American Broadcasting Co., said that their live and videotape cameras were restricted to locations approved by the Chicago police and were plainly visible to anyone. Hand-held film cameras simply followed the demonstrations, the network said.

NBC news director Joe Derby termed the policeman's quote from Rubin as "utterly ridiculous."

"It just couldn't be," he said. "We were completely restricted and were not allowed on the street by order of the chief of police. We had to use a long range lens to get what we got. That (collusion) is not NBC policy," Derby said.

Jim Byrne of CBS said of the charges, "That is not the case." Another CBS employe termed the allegation "baloney." "Anyone with eyes could see where we were," the television newsman said.

William Sheehan, a vice-president of ABC, said the accusation was "totally without substance."

Another ABC official, Richard Connelly, said the demonstrators "had no forewarning of where our cameras would be."